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COLLEGES SEEKING STANDARDIZATION

Background of Poe's University Life

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WOMAN IN HIGHER FIELD
Realization of Her Capabilities
Is Leading Her On to Real
College Work.

One of the great movements in the educational world is that for the standardization of our colleges. "The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching," the "General Education Board," the different "Associations of Colleges," many of the denominational boards, and the boards of the colleges and universities, together with many able educators, are all working toward the establishment of some standard for a college that will mean something. The opinion of the best authorities is that the standard college must have the following features:

1. It must require fourteen Carnegie units for entrance in the freshman class. By this is meant a four-year high-school course, in addition to the eight years' grammar school course.
2. It must have at least six well-qualified professors, who devote their entire time to teaching the college course.
3. It must have a course in the art and sciences, requiring fifteen hours of recitation a week for four years to complete.
4. It must be a department of a

4. It must be adequately equipped in the way of laboratories, library, etc.

5. It must maintain a reasonable standard.

6. It must have sufficient financial resources to maintain it.

The education given by this standard college, is the higher education, as understood and accepted by the best educators.

Not so many years ago there was considerable speculation as to whether or not a woman was capable of taking the higher education. The woman herself has most clearly removed this delusion by demonstrating not alone her ability, but her eagerness to develop her mental powers to the highest perfection. The usual gradation of education are: (1) elementary, covered by the eight grammar school grades; (2) secondary, the four years of high-school work, and, (3) higher, which is accomplished by the four

Having accepted the idea that the college education is the higher education, we are confronted with the pertinent question, What is college? There is a total of about 850 so-called colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Topping this list we find a college with splendid build-

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of Leading Schools

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Was it singular that a man so full of architectural sentimentality as these words disclosed, should have fairly wracked his sense of beauty when he came to build that new university? It was not simply propinquity to Monticello that led him to urge the selection of Charlottesville as its site. Its establishment there would make necessary the erection from the very ground of the elements of academic structures. Could chance have afforded a nobler opportunity for the display of his classical leanings? And could that opportunity have been more nobly used? There is not another such esthetic institution in the United States. A few, throughout the world, so artistically sheltered, so beautifully housed,

Jefferson's central purpose was to found an academic village, each part a link in the chain of all the parts, and all in the most perfect architectural harmony. The village varied as an alternation of colleges, the Doric, the Ionic, and Corinthian styles could make them. It was adapting the chastely severe but exquisitely symmetrical Roman Temple, Theatre, and Pantheon to the ends of the most perfect utility.

When Poe matriculated on February 14, 1826, the main plan of the university buildings had been finally embodied in brick and mortar. The academic village consisted of ten pavilions, each of a different architectural character, but all fronting on a central terraced lawn. Between the pavilions were thus situated a range of dormitories, only one of which, a wide, facing a colonnade of the height of the lower story of the pavilions and composed of square brick pilasters with a Tuscan entablature. Each pavilion was occupied by a professor, who was authorized to reserve one of the apartments on the ground floor for his future hall. A dormitory was large enough to afford sufficient room for two students.

The noble rotunda at the head of the central lawn, which was modeled on the Pantheon, was not yet finished.

The general effect of the combined pavilions, dormitories, and colonnades, with their blending of dark roofs, white pillars, and red facings, was even when Poe first saw them one of imposing dignity, which must have been far in his discerning eyes, to serve as a substitute for the inspiring background of immemorial religion and culture—that subtle, nameless, and indefinable spell of misty traditions, which the centuries alone can impart even to the greatest seat

If there was little in the inner or the outer aspect of Jefferson's academic village to remind Poe of the Manor House School at Stoke Newington, there was much to recall that

school in the nationality, and in the ripe classical culture, of at least four members of the faculty. Mr. Jefferson had, after a number of fruitless invitations, secured American scholars, native-born or by adoption, been everywhere, perhaps, however, with no poignant reluctance—to send the accomplished Gilmer to London and Oxford to procure occupants for the several important chairs to be filled. The popular feeling against foreigners doing this came before the board of visitors was expressed by General Blackburn: "I cannot," he said, "conceal my predilection for American teachers and American (especially Virginian) manners, and the fear that foreign professors may intrude into our institution foreign opinions and customs alien to the simplicity of republican manners adopted by our government." He admitted, however, that the board

The first session of the university began on March 7, 1852. Poe, as we have already stated, was a freshman in the University of Virginia in February of the ensuing year. Among the members of the faculty at that time were the following four Englishmen: George Long, Thomas Hewitt Key, Charles Bonnycastle, and Robly Dunkinson. George Tucker, a native of Bermuda, a British dependency, also occupied a chair; and another was occupied by John P. Emmet, a native of Ireland, and a close friend of the unfortunate patriot of that surname.

Perhaps the most learned member of this accomplished group was Professor Long, of the chair of Ancient Languages, to whom Poe appears to have been chiefly in debt for the ripe fruits of his university training. Long justly enjoyed a wide reputation and attainments, for the nicest and most discriminating race, and for a frank detestation of all shallow pretensions to proficiency in the studies in which he shone. "His masterly knowledge of his subject," said one who had sat under him, "inspired his students with the highest

The other professor whose lectures were attended by Poe was George Blaetterman, of the many-aided chair of Modern Languages—a man not so winning in his personality as Long, but one of the foremost polyglots of his time.

The future poet must have been brought into frequent intercourse, outside of the lecture halls, with Professor Key, a man of charming geniality, who filled so brilliantly the chair of mathematics, and who as his later

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